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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 595
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Fred D. and Anathia G. Beneby on receiving the Jerry Anderson Humanitarian Award.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to recognize community leaders who work tirelessly in a variety of capacities to serve the public good; and

WHEREAS, Fred D. and Anathia G. Beneby, recent recipients of the prestigious Jerry Anderson

Humanitarian Award, are two such persons, who serve as excellent role models for us all; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beneby is a retired music instructor and Special Education Curriculum Specialist, who generously contributes countless hours to various Rutherford County civic groups; and

WHEREAS, she has served ably as a surrogate parent for the Rutherford County School System; as the Loan Executive for United Way of Rutherford County; as an Advisory Board member and volunteer for Hospice of Murfreesboro; as an Advisory Board member of the St. Clair Street Senior Center; as a worker for the Bradley Academy Historical Association, Inc., working expertly as the initial contact for the M.T.S.U. Center for Historic Preservation, as the organizer of their ad hoc committee, as past chair and vice-chair of fund-raising, and as chair for Publicity and Public Relations, and as a helper for the Ivy AKAdemy Educational Enrichment program; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Beneby has also made a significant contribution to the Murfreesboro Senior Citizens Center, as a member of their Board of Directors, by assisting in the distribution of Health Fair information and as a valued member of the Center Standard, Self-Assessment and Evaluation Committee; the N.A.A.C.P., as a member of their Board of Directors, as a participant in the African Arts Festival, as a 1980-1981 member of the Million Dollar Club; she also received a Community Service Award from the group; and the Athletes Working for Achievement Through Realistic Education (A.W.A.R. E.), as the Rutherford County organizer for student athletes in grades 8-12, as the implementer of several motivational well-received workshops, as the arranger of several college tours, and as an aide in getting students college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, she has also helped the Greater Nashville Regional Council, the Old Fort Park Kid's Castle, the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Homebuyers Education Association, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Linebaugh Library, and the Jobs for Tennessee Graduates program; and

WHEREAS, her long list of honors includes: special recognition by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1984 and 1985), as Sunset Learning Center Teacher of the Year (1985 and 1986), as Trailblazer Award Nominee (1995), Community Service Award (1997), as the recipient of the Order of the Eastern Star Outstanding Woman of the Community (1997), and being the Hospice Volunteer Spotlight (1997); and

WHEREAS, the fine record of community service by Fred D. Beneby is equally impressive; and

WHEREAS, after volunteering for the draft, he served his country bravely, spending two years in Korea; and

WHEREAS, before his retirement, Mr. Beneby was a highly regarded employee of BellSouth for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, he served admirably as the Assistant Manager for Personnel Recruiting for BellSouth for Broward County, Florida in his last position with the company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beneby also worked as a golf caddy during the day, during his early years with the telephone company; and

WHEREAS, the importance of education has been one of the driving focuses of the Benebys' lives; and

WHEREAS, of his numerous community activities, Mr. Beneby's favorite is as a volunteer college recruiter and worker with high school students; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in placing many talented black high school students in colleges such as the University of the South and Atlanta's Clark University-Spellman College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beneby has been one of the leading proponents of the effort to rebuild one of Murfreesboro's most significant historical sites, the Old Bradley Academy, once the school of President James K. Polk and later the school that many African Americans in the county attended; and

WHEREAS, his numerous volunteer activities include diligent service as a member of the Equal Access Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, as a member of the Inner-City Task Force to establish a Boy Scout Troop, as part of the effort to supply relief to the residents of Hickory Grove suffering flood damage, as a volunteer teacher at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, and as coordinator to build a baseball field for Rutherford County youth (ages 4-12); and

WHEREAS, this representative of the finest traditions of the Volunteer State has also strongly supported the Urban League, the Pioneers of America, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Bradley Elementary School, Hospice of Murfreesboro and Junior Achievement; and

WHEREAS, a humble man who does not seek recognition for his community service, Mr. Beneby has been honored as a member of the N.A.A.C.P. Million Dollar Club (1980 and 1981), as the recipient of the N.A.A.C.P. Humanitarian Award (1980), as member of the

Bethune-Cookman College president's Club (1987), as nominee for the Community Service Award (1995 and 1996), as a winner of the Mary McLeod Bethune Legacy Award (1996), and as the Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year (1997); and

WHEREAS, Fred and Anathia serve God faithfully as active members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Fred sums up the family feeling by stating "Volunteerism is a religion to me. It is part of what I think Christ would have us do"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially honor and commend these two very distinguished citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Anathia G. and Fred D. Beneby on their community service and congratulate them on receiving the much-deserved Jerry Anderson Humanitarian Award. On behalf of the many citizens who have benefited from their model work, we express our deepest gratitude.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.